

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05
SS-15 OES-07 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-07 FCC-01 OC-06
COME-00 BIB-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /135 W
-----072556 241009Z /10

O R 240833Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2249
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, UN
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: DIRECT BROADCAST SATELLITES

1. FRENCH REP PIERRE REVOL DWELT AT LENGTH AND UNHELPEFULLY ON CULTURAL INTEGRITY IN COURSE OF FRENCH GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT IN OSC PLENARY AM 23 JUNE. HE PLACED MORE VERBAL STRESS THAN IN THE PAST ON FRANCE'S COMMITMENT TO FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS, ASSERTING THAT FRANCE IS MORE DEDICATED THAN ANYONE TO THIS CONCEPT. HE WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH DEDICATION IS NOT TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS AND THAT SHE RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL ABUSE; THE QUESTION IS ONE OF BALANCING HUMAN LIBERTY WITH THE POTENTIAL INTRUSION INTO DAILY LIFE OF THE NEW DBS TECHNOLOGY. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MUST RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF THE LDC'S WHO WILL RECEIVE DIRECT TV BROADCASTS BY SATELLITE EVEN AS THEY INVOKE FREEDOM OF BROADCASTING. WHAT IS NEEDED IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH CONSULTATIONS AND

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FREELY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS.

2. REVOL OPPOSED THE BRITISH ASSERTION THAT THE 1977 ITU WARC MAKES UNNECESSARY ANY PRINCIPLE CONCERNING CONSULTATIONS AND AGREEMENT AS A PREREQUISITE TO BROADCASTING OPERATIONS. THE WARC RESULTS WILL NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL 1979 AND THEN ONLY FOR RATIFYING STATES, HE SAID.

TECHNOLOGY MAY WELL SPRING "SURPRISES" WITH WHICH ITU REGULATORY TECHNIQUES MAY BE UNABLE TO KEEP UP.
(COMMENT: THIS PICKS UP INDONESIAN/BRAZILIAN THESIS THAT WARC 77 DEALS ONLY WITH THE 12 GH BAND AND THUS LEAVES COMPLETELY UNCONTROLLED POTENTIALLY USUABLE HIGHER FREQUENCIES. UK DEL TELLS US THEY WILL REPLY TO THIS POINT DURING CURRENT SESSION. END COMMENT)
REVOL ALSO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD LDC CULTURAL IDENTITIES AND RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES AS AGAINST POSSIBLE BROADCASTING DEPREDATIONS. HE CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE OF A RIGHT OF REPLY TO MISINFORMED OR ADVERSE DBS PROGRAMMING SIMILAR TO THE RIGHT PROVIDED IN FRENCH DOMESTIC LAW WITH RESPECT TO FRENCH MASS MEDIA OUTPUT.

3. FRENCH STATEMENT WAS APPLAUDED AND ITS MAIN THEMES ECHOED IN 21 JUNE GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS OF KENYA AND MEXICO. KENYA SAID WARC 77 HAS ALLEVIATED SOME OF THE LDC'S FEARS BUT CONSULTATIONS AND SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE CONTENT OF EACH BROADCAST. KENYA POINTED TO THE ESSENTIAL UNFAIRNESS OF A SITUATION IN WHICH LDC'S CAN ONLY RECEIVE, NOT TRANSMIT. THUS, "WHILE NOT RETRACTING THE NOBLE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, WE SHOULD CREATE RULES THAT WILL PREVENT THE ABUSES FOUND IN EXISTING RADIO BROADCASTING." MEXICO SPOKE BRIEFLY BUT SHARPLY OF THE DANGERS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVING "TENDENTIOUS INFORMATION" FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY SOURCES. UNLESS PROTECTIONS ARE AGREED IN THE FORM OF LEGAL PRINCIPLES, DBS CAN LEAD TO INFRINGEMENT OF CULTURAL INTEGRITY, DEBASEMENT OF INDIGENOUS MORAL VALUES, AND INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. ON THE OTHER HAND, MEXICO BELIEVES THAT CANADIAN/SWEDISH APPROACH IS A GENUINE EFFORT TO RECONCILE DIVERGENT TENDENCIES.. THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR CONSULTATIONS MUST MEAN PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AND THE GOOD FAITH OBLIGATION TO TRY TO REACH AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROADCASTING AUTHORITY AND RECIPIENT STATE.

4. THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON DBS MET FOR THE FIRST TIME PM 23 JUNE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF AUSTRIAN DELEGATE PETER RADEL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SUGGESTION EARLIER PUT TO RADEL BY CANADA, THE WG BEGAN BY REVIEWING ALTERNATIVE TEXTS OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE DBS GUIDELINES PACKAGE. THIS INITIAL DISCUSSION REVEALED MAJOR PARTICIPANTS PUTTING FORWARD THE MOST POSITIVE FACE IN DISCUSSING LANGUAGE WHICH HAPPENED, AT THIS FIRST SITTING, TO BE OF ONLY LIMITED SENSITIVITY. SOV DEL MADE THREE OR FOUR MILD AND

REASONABLY CONSTRUCTIVE INTERVENTIONS, AS DID THE UK,
FRG, SWEDEN AND THE US. ACTIVE LDC PARTICIPANTS
INCLUDED INDIA, ARGENTINA AND MEXICO. WG WILL CONTINUE
DISCUSSING THE PREAMBLE AM 24 JUNE AT WHICH POINT IT
WILL GET INTO HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL UNAGREED PARAGRAPHS
ON SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS
(USSR), "LOFTY GOALS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP" (MEXICO/
ROMANIA), FREE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS
(CANADA/SWEDEN), AND THE UK'S PROPOSAL FOR AN EXTENSIVE
RESTATEMENT OF ARTICLE 19 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS. RADEL TOLD THE WG HE WISHES TO MOVE
INTO A DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS OF THE
CONSULTATION AND AGREEMENTS PRINCIPLE AT THE 24 JUNE
SITTING. MEEHAN
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Message Attributes

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